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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/016,668	10/26/2001	Zhen-Gang Wang	9373/1H812US3	3843

7590 09/09/2003
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805 Third Avenue
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EXAMINER
ZHOU, SHUBO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1631	

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/016,668	WANG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Shubo "Joe" Zhou	1631	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-175 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) 1-175 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

The art unit designated for this application has changed. Applicant(s) are hereby informed that future correspondence should be directed to Art Unit 1631.

This application contains sequence disclosures that are encompassed by the definitions for nucleotide and/or amino acid sequences set forth in 37 CFR 1.821(a)(1) and (a)(2), such as those in Fig. 3. However, this application fails to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.821 through 1.825 because the paper copy and the computer readable form of a Sequence Listing are not provided, and the sequences are not followed by a sequence identifier ("SEQ ID NO:X"). Applicants are reminded that it is required that SEQ ID Nos be amended into the specification at each sequence, and that when a sequence is presented in a drawing regardless of the format or the manner of presentation of that sequence in the drawing, the sequence must still be included in the Sequence Listing and the sequence identifier must be used, either in the drawing or in the Brief Description of the Drawings. Applicants are given the same response time regarding this failure to comply as that set forth to respond to this office action. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in ABANDONMENT of the application under 37 CFR 1.821(g). Extensions of time may be obtained by filing a petition accompanied by the extension fee under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Restriction/Election Requirement

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1-24, 28-40, and 151, drawn to a method of selecting a crossover location, classified in class 702, subclass 19.

II. Claims 25-27, drawn to a method for directed evolution of a polymer, classified in class 702, subclass 19.

III. Claims 41-70, 111-117, 120-126, 131-134, 139-140, and 152-171, drawn to a method of producing hybrid polymers from two or more parent polymers, classified in class 702, subclass 19.

IV. Claims 71-100, 118-119, 127-130, 135-138, and 141, drawn to a method of producing a library of hybrid polymers, classified in class 702, subclass 19.

V. Claims 101-110, drawn to a method of modeling the recombination of two or more parent polymers, classified in class 702, subclass 19.

VI. Claim 142, drawn to a method of producing recombinant oligonucleotides from two or more parent oligonucleotides by a staggered extension process, classified in class 435, subclass 6.

VII. Claims 143-145, drawn to a method of producing recombinant oligonucleotides from two or more parent oligonucleotides by an in vitro-in vivo recombination method, classified in class 435, subclass 6.

VIII. Claims 146-149, drawn to a method of producing recombinant oligonucleotides from two or more parent oligonucleotides by an in vitro PCR amplification method, classified in class 435, subclass 6.

IX. Claims 150-151, drawn to a method of producing recombinant oligonucleotides from two or more parent oligonucleotides by a family shuffling method, classified in class 435, subclass 6.

X. Claims 172-173, drawn to a beta-lactamase hybrid, classified in class 530, subclass 300 or 350.

XI. Claims 174-175, drawn to a hybrid polymer comprising peptide, classified in class 530, subclass 300 or 350.

It is clear that the various methods of Groups I-IX as claimed are distinct, each from one another, both physically and functionally, require different process steps, reagents and parameters, and produce different products and/or results. Group I produces a crossover location; Group II results in a directed evolution of a polymer; Group III produces hybrid polymers from two or more parent polymers; Group IV produces a LIBRARY of hybrid polymers and Group V produces a model for the recombination of two or more parent polymers. Group VI produces recombinant oligonucleotides from two or more parent oligonucleotides by a staggered extension process; Group VII produces recombinant oligonucleotides from two or more parent oligonucleotides by an in vitro-in vivo recombination method, Group VIII produces recombinant oligonucleotides from two or more parent oligonucleotides by an in vitro PCR amplification method; and Group X, however, produces recombinant oligonucleotides from two or more parent oligonucleotides by a family shuffling method. The various products of Groups X-XI are unrelated. Group X is drawn to a beta-lactamase hybrid whereas group XI is directed to a hybrid polymer comprising peptide.

Consequently, these inventions have acquired a separate status in the art as a separate subject for inventive effect and are usually published separately. The search for each of the above inventions is not co-extensive particularly with regard to the literature search. Thus, examination of the invention groups together would impose an undue search burden to the Office.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR § 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h).

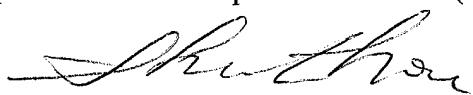
Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technical Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technical Center 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1988), 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993), and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993)(See 37 CFR § 1.6(d)). The CM1 Fax Center number is either (703) 308-4242 or (703)305-3014.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to:

Shubo "Joe" Zhou, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (703) 605-1158. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward, Ph.D., can be reached on (703) 308-4028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to Patent Analyst Tina Plunkett whose telephone number is 703)-305-3524, or to the Technical Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

S. "Joe" Zhou, Ph.D.



Patent Examiner